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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/674,354	10/01/2003	Nobuhiro Inoue	243412US3	3815
22850	7590	04/05/2007	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			LAZORCIK, JASON L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1731	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/05/2007	ELECTRONIC	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 04/05/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/674,354	INOUE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jason L. Lazorkik	1731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 January 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 and 13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 13 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 10 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Newly submitted claim 13 is directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: In reply filed September 1, 2006, Applicant elected Claims 1-11 drawn to a method of press bending a glass sheet. In Applicants present correspondence dated January 25, 2007, a new claim 13 drawn to an apparatus for bending a glass sheet has been added. As previously set forth by the Examiner, the claimed inventions between the apparatus and method are properly restrictable. First, the alleged inventions drawn to a process and an apparatus have attained separate classification status in the art. Second, the claimed apparatus can be utilized in a materially different process which would extend the scope of the search beyond the original classification. For at least these reasons, the search and examination of the entire application consisting of both the apparatus and method would require divergent fields of search and therefore present an undue burden upon the Office.

Therefore, since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claim 13 is withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claim Objections

Claim 10 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Applicant has amended the instant claim to reads that "the glass sheet is bent to have the shape of an automobile window". Where the parent claim 1 clearly recites a method step of "bending the glass sheet" in line7, the instant claim where the sheet is bent "to have the shape of an automobile window" is regarded as a statement of intended use and therefore imparts no further limitation upon the method of the parent claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomozane (US 5,589,248 as cited by Applicant on Form PTO 1449).

Regarding claims 1, 2, and 3 Tomozane teaches a method of bending a glass sheet wherein the sheet is heated to have a viscosity of about 10^8 poise. Pressure is applied to cause the bending of the glass sheet over a period of 1 to 5 minutes (column 8, Lines 11-13). The reference indicates that "to bend a heated glass sheet along a bend line at a predetermined angle according to the invention, a glass sheet holding mechanism is used. **A bending speed, a bending force and a final bend angle are precisely controlled by the glass sheet-holding mechanism, so that generation of cracks at the bend area is prevented** and a predetermined shape of the cross section and a predetermined thickness at the bend are attained" (Column 7, Lines 60-67).

Regarding Applicants newly added limitation, the Tomozane "glass sheet-holding mechanism" is read in the broadest reasonable interpretation as functionally equivalent to the claimed "mold having a certain bending surface". Specifically Tomozane teaches that "the glass sheet-holding mechanism has plates attached to arms, by which the glass sheet is clamped via the insulating material. The arms are moved by power to bend the glass sheet at a predetermined angle." Since the glass sheet is both supported by and bent "against" the arms of the Tomozane "glass sheet-holding mechanism", the prior art device is understood to bend the glass sheet "against the bending surface".

The reference also sets forth that "a radius of curvature of the outer circumference of the bend transverse to the bend in the shaped glass sheet thus

produced was 5mm, i.e. 1.2 times the thickness of the glass sheet in the straight sections" (column 14, Lines 24-27). The immediate disclosure reads directly upon claim 2 wherein the bent glass sheet includes a portion having a radius of curvature of not larger than 100mm. Further as clearly depicted in figure 6a, Tomozane teaches a glass sheet which includes a corner where three surfaces connect together and each surface is a flat surface.

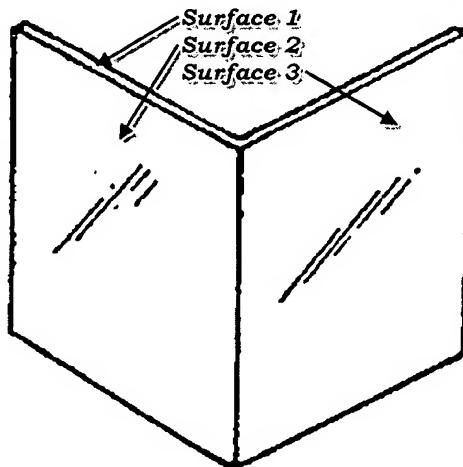


FIG. 6A

Tomozane does not explicitly indicate the applied force needs to comply with the relationship as set forth in formula 2. It is understood from the applicants specification that controlling the "bending evaluation index" value to the range outlined in claim 1 is performed in order to avoid the formation of a wrinkle in a peripheral edge of the sheet or "the formation of several kinds of optical distortions in the glass sheet" (Specification pg 3, Lines 10-14). Tomozane clearly indicates that the applied force or applied pressure as a function of time is "***precisely controlled***" to preclude the generation of

cracks or a kind of "optical distortion" at the bend area. In addition, the Tomozane process is undertaken on glass material heated to a viscosity falling within the claimed range of 10^5 to 10^8 poise. It would have therefore been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to control the bending time, viscosity, and applied pressure as a function of time in order to comply with the "bending evaluation index" range as claimed above in order to preclude the formation of optical distortions in a bent sheet of glass.

With respect to claim 7, Tomozane teaches that "the glass sheet is molded on the frame **by gravity** or by other external force to have a bend of a desired angle" (Column 1, Lines 46-48). This disclosure is understood to provide a method wherein the sheet is bent "primarily only by gravity".

With respect to claim 9, Tomozane teaches that "a usual float method glass sheet is used in known glass bending methods (Column 1, Lines 43-44)

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomozane as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Anderson (US 4,361,429). Tomozane fails to explicitly indicate the use of a vacuum mold and a ring which perform a trimming operation during the disclosed glass bending process. Anderson teaches a method bending a glass sheet to final utilizing a concave mold (12) and a peripheral trimming device. Anderson teaches that the sheet of molten glass overlying the mold cavity initially conforms to the contour of the mold cavity...with a vacuum applied to the mold cavity" and the (Column 2, lines 14-32). The glass sheet is pressed between this mold cavity and trimming member (34) or "a ring substantially conforming to a

peripheral edge of the glass sheet. This trimming member trims a portion of the glass sheet sandwiched between the mold cavity and the member in accord with the limitation set forth in claim 5. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the Tomozane process according to the teachings of Anderson to incorporate both a vacuum cavity mold and a trimming member as described. This would have been an obvious modification to anyone seeking to fabricate a complexly bend glass object from a larger sheet of stock glass.

Claim 6 is rendered obvious in light of the rejection of claim 5 under 35 USC 103(a) as set forth above wherein the plunger mold (28) is understood to be functionally equivalent to the claimed "the mold" provided above the glass sheet.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomozane as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Hirotsu (US 5,071,461). Tomozane fails to explicitly indicate the implementation of a mold release agent in the process as disclosed. Hirotsu teaches that during a press bending operation for a glass sheet, said sheet may be found to adhere to the mold members thereby decreasing the working life of the apparatus. Hirotsu further instructs that "To eliminate this problem, a layer of a heat resistant mold release agent is formed by printing on the surface of the printed layer of the color frit so that good releasing properties are obtained between the colored zone of the color frit and the heat resistant cloth of the pressing member 31. Boron nitride or carbon may be used for the release agent having good heat resistant properties." (Column 12, lines 55-69) It would therefore have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide a mold release agent as

taught by Hirotsu on the surface of the molding members in the Tomozane process as in order to prevent adhesion of the glass sheet to the forming members. This would have been an obvious modification to anyone seeking to promote the useful operating lifetime of a glass bending mold.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomozane and Anderson as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of Nikander (US 5,292,355). Tomozane-Anderson teaches that the sheet of molten glass overlying a mold cavity initially conforms to the contour of the mold cavity...with a vacuum applied to the mold cavity" however it fails to explicitly set forth the limitation in the bending process wherein air is first blown to swell the glass sheet in a first direction followed by sucking air to bend the glass sheet in a second direction. Nikander teaches a process wherein heated air is blown to increase the temperature of the edges of a glass sheet with "a particular objective ...to provide a method and apparatus for controlling and regulating the gravitational bending of the entire area of the glass sheet" (Column 1, Line 60-63). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to blow heated air from the mold cavity as described by Anderson before applying vacuum therefrom in order to insure proper heating of the glass sheet during the bending process. As indicated by Nikander this process would help to control and regulate the bending of the entire glass sheet. Therefore in light of the precise bending operation requirements set forth by Tomozane, it would have been obvious to combine the relevant teachings of both Anderson and Nikander to provide a controlled bending operation.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see page 6, line 3 through page 8, line 17, filed January 25, 2007, with respect to the rejection of claims 1-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of Claims 1-9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph has been withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments filed January 25, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

First, Applicant argues that Tomozane discloses a process for bending a glass sheet without the generation of cracks but not the prevention of "optical distortions" which applicant asserts requires a greater level of process control. Examiner disagrees. As set forth in the previous Office Action, Tomozane clearly teaches that bending a sheet according to the traditional method "will largely distort an object" and specifically that a traditional radius of curvature yields optical transmission and reflection distortions (Column 1, Line 40-67). Further, the reference teaches that a bend processed in accord with the disclosed process circumvents these optical distortion effects (Column 12, Lines 20-40).

Second, Applicant argues that "the portions of the glass sheet being pressed are not heated to have a viscosity of 108 poise, and therefore the process parameters disclosed in Tomozane are different than those claimed in the instant application. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show the specified features

of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., that portion of the glass sheet pressed or in contact with the mold surface is heated to the disclosed viscosity range) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Please refer to the detailed rejections presented above for any argument not explicitly addressed in this section.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason L. Lazorcik whose telephone number is (571) 272-2217. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on (571) 272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JLL


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